

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-04 COA-01 AGR-05 OES-03 INT-05 DLOS-03

SAJ-01 COME-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 /077 W

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R 151150Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4974

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS IC GW

SUBJECT: DRAFT ICELAND-FRG FISHERIES AGREEMENT REJECTED

REF: REYKJAVIK 1509 (NOTAL)

1. SIMMERING OPPOSITION WITHIN RANKS OF GOVERNMENT PARTIES TO DRAFT FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH FRG SURFACED NOVEMBER 13 AS GOI RELEASED TEXT OF AGREEMENT ACCOMPANIED BY EXPLANATORY STATEMENT. AFTER SEVERAL MP'S FROM COALITION PARTNER PROGRESSIVE PARTY SPOKE OUT AGAINST TERMS, AND FISHERIES MINISTER MATTHIAS BJARNASON (INDEPENDENCE PARTY) SAID PUBLICLY HE OPPOSED THEM, PRIMIN'S OFFICE ANNOUNCED CABINET HAD DECIDED NOT TO RATIFY AGREEMENT BUT TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRG.

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2. PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT, WHICH HAD BEEN ACCURATELY LEAKED BEFORE NOVEMBER 13 RELEASE, FEATURED: EXCLUSION OF FRG FACTORY SHIPS; PERMISSION FOR 17 FREEZER TRAWLERS AND 40 OTHER VESSELS BETWEEN 12 AND 50 MILE MARKS AT SPECIFIED TIMES; AND OVERALL CATCH LIMIT OF 85,000 TONS, OF WHICH NOT MORE THAN 10,000 TONS COULD BE COD. IN ITS EXPLANATORY STATEMENT, GOI HAD NOTED THAT AREA OPEN TO WEST GERMANS WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN PROPOSED BY PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT LAST MARCH, AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF LIMIT ON COD WHICH IT SAID WOULD AMOUNT TO ONLY HALF OF FRG AVERAGE RECENT TAKE.

3. MAJOR TARGET OF CRITICS APPEARED TO BE PROVISION ALLOWING FREEZER TRAWLERS WITHIN 50 MILES WHICH, OPPONENTS CLAIM, WOULD NOT ONLY PUT ICELANDIC FISHERMEN AT DISADVANTAGE, BUT WOULD BE UNDESIREABLE PRECEDENT FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. FISHERIES MINISTER HAD NARROWER RESERVATIONS, FOCUSING ON AGREEMENT'S GRANTING OF RIGHTS TO WEST GERMANS WITHIN CERTAIN SPECIFIC AREAS. HIS STAND, COUPLED WITH EVIDENT WIDESPREAD PP UNHAPPINESS, WERE PROBABLY DETERMINING IN GOI REJECTION OF EXISTING TERMS.

4. IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW HARD GOVERNMENT TRIED TO SELL AGREEMENT WITHIN COALITION, BUT AT VERY LEAST, INDICATIONS ARE THAT IT UNDERESTIMATED OPPOSITION WITHIN COALITION RANKS. INDEPENDENCE PARTY WAS NOT PREPARED TO LET PROGRESSIVES APPEAR AS LEADING PROTECTORS OF ICELANDIC INTERESTS PARTICULARLY WHEN IP WAS OPPOSED BY ITS OWN FISHERIES MINISTER. COMPOUNDING GOVERNMENT'S DIFFICULTIES WITH ISSUE WAS STREAM OF CRITICISM OVER ITS EFFORTS TO CLOAK AFFAIR IN SECRECY. CRITICS GOT UNEXPECTED ALLY NOVEMBER 14 WHEN IP DAILY MORGUNBLADID EDITORIALY DENOUNCED GOVERNMENT'S "CLUMSY" HANDLING OF FISHERIES MATTER AS "TEXTBOOK EXAMPLE" OF HOW NOT TO DEAL WITH VITAL NATIONAL ISSUES. PAPER WENT SO FAR AS TO CONTRAST IP-LED GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE WITH WHAT IT SAID WAS EXEMPLARY HANDLING OF SIMILAR SITUATION BY PROGRESSIVE PARTY RPIME MINISTER JOHANNESSEN DURING LAST FALL'S FISHERIES TALKS WITH UK.  
IRVING

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TREATY RATIFICATION, FISHERIES MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, FISHING LIMITS  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** EFIS, IC, GE  
**To:** STATE  
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